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Dodd Says Soviet Economy Is Sick And West Should Be Tough Doctor

Washington, June 21 (AP)—Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) said today the Soviet Union's economy is afflicted with crises in agriculture, industry, quality control and raw materials and needs Western trade to survive. He urged that political concessions be extracted as the price of such trade.

Dodd expressed his views in the foreword to a symposium issued by the Senate subcommittee on internal security entitled "The Many Crises of the Soviet Economy."

The Senator, vice chairman of the subcommittee, cited these statistics to back up his argument:

- In 1961 some 191,000 Soviet tractors, 21,000 grain combines and 20,00 forage harvestors were sidelined because of lack of spare parts.

- Private family garden plots that year representing 3.3% of Soviet farm land produced 26% of Soviet potatoes, 34% of the eggs, 15% of all wool, 14% of all meat and poultry and 7% of the green vegetables.

Low-Quality Equipment

"The quality of Soviet electronic equipment is so low that the Soviet prefer to trust the safety of their Tu-104 and IL-18 airliners to British-made navigation equipment," Dodd said.

He claimed Soviet industry "is lagging further and further behind the West and . . . growing more dependent on it."

He said there are Soviet shortages of copper, tin, nickel and lead and suggested increased East-West trade "may well be a matter of survival" for the Communists.

Asks Firm Attitude

"There is every reason to believe that a firm attitude on the part of the West will produce political concessions on the part of the Soviets . . . We should insist the Soviets bring a halt to their subversive activities in this hemisphere and elsewhere; that they respect the international patent convention and that they live up to their postwar agreements on Europe."

Dodd proposed a conference of NATO nations to coordinate Western policy on East-West trade.



Sen. Thomas J.
Dodd